

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 18, 2021

PRELUDE – “Day by Day” – Todd Kendall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

God our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN #645 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

GREETING

From God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 23:1-6

PSALM 23 *Spoken responsively*

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND LESSON:

EPHESIANS 2:1 1-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #676

LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and
born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into
hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Response: Your mercy is great.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,**

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this
meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In
your name we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with
us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #789 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — "WORTHY IS THE LAMB" — LYNELLE LEATHERMAN

✠ ✠ ✠

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WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors.

"God's purpose for St. Paul's Lutheran Blue" Church is to spread the Good News of Christ's love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond." -Blue Church Mission Statement, adopted 2012

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Mark's gospel makes clear how great was the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

JEREMIAH 23:1-6: *Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 B.C. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the "flock" of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David's line to save Israel and Judah.*

EPHESIANS 2:11-22: *The author of this letter is reminding his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.*

MARK 6:30-34, 53-56: *When Jesus sent his disciples out to teach and heal, they ministered among large numbers of people. Their work was motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 8: Come away and rest awhile. *Mark 6:31*
PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: O God, you desire to create a new humanity in Jesus Christ. May we further the reconciliation that is your will so that all people may find peace in the temple of the Lord's body. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Peter Link, Carl Ritter, Candice Robinson, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, Stephen.

Other concerns:

Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in "acute care" situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
ASSISTING MINISTER	Amy Ortwein
LECTOR	Amy Ortwein
GREETER	Diane Wirth
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Paula Clark

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
MONTHLY COMMUNION WINE SPONSOR...**by Warren and Lois Adams.

LOOKING AHEAD

**JULY 25 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.
The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the
summer Worship services.**

BETTY LOU'S PANTRY UPDATE...Most needed donations at the pantry right now:

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked Beans Kidney Beans

Other things always needed:

Toilet paper, jelly (other than grape), non-sugared cereal, hygiene products (other than soap)

BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING is starting to come alive with fresh produce (tomatoes, beans, zucchini, eggplant, etc. Check it out and take what you can use. Simply give a donation marked "Garden of Giving" and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou's Food Pantry.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

JULY 22 – MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE

The gospels report Mary Magdalene was one of the women of Galilee who followed Jesus. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial. When she went to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus' body, she was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared. She returned to the disciples with the news and has been called "the apostle to the apostles" for her proclamation of the resurrection. Because John's gospel describes Mary as weeping at the tomb, she is often portrayed in art with red eyes. Icons depict her standing by the tomb and holding a bright red egg, symbol of the resurrection.

**JULY 23 – BIRGITTA OF SWEDEN, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH,
DIED 1373**

Birgitta (beer-GEE-tuh) was married at age thirteen and had four daughters with her husband. She was a woman of some standing who, in her early thirties, served as the chief lady-in-waiting to the queen of Sweden. She was widowed at the age of thirty-eight, shortly after she and her husband had made a religious pilgrimage. Following the death of her husband the religious dreams and visions that had begun in her youth occurred more regularly. Her devotional commitments led her to give to the poor and needy all that she owned, and she began to live a more ascetic life. She founded an order of monks and nuns, the Order of the Holy Savior (Brigittines), whose superior was a woman. Today the Society of St. Birgitta is a laypersons' society that continues her work of prayer and charity.

LESSONS

Jeremiah 23:1-6 – 1st Lesson

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Ephesians 2:11-22 – 2nd Lesson

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,* called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body* through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.* ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.* ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy

temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually* into a dwelling-place for God.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 - Gospel

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ 8th Sunday after Pentecost ✠
July 18, 2021

A: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding,

“Your mercy is great.”

A brief silence

A: Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

A: Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

A: Reconcile the nations, O God. Breakdown the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

A: Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Robin, Peter, Carl, Candice, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us O God. **“Your mercy is great.”**

A: Nourish Blue Church, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great”

A: You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints. As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

Pastor: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.